

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An image forming device which forms an image into an image on a recording paper, comprising:

means for determining that there is an area where two images are overlapped one over another at least partially; and

means for determining attributes of these two images,

wherein for an image having a specific attribute of these two images, no image is deleted even in the overlapping area.

2. (Original) An image forming device which forms an image into an image on a recording paper, comprising:

means for determining that there is an area where two images are overlapped one over another at least partially;

means for determining priority ranks which represent a top or bottom in overlapped status of these two images in the overlapping area; and

means for forming an image which priority rank is lower, and thereupon, forming an image which priority rank is higher, in the overlapping area.

3. (Original) The image forming device of claim 2, further comprising means for determining attributes of these two images in the overlapping area, wherein

these two images are an image having a specific attribute, and an image having another attribute,

when the image having the specific attribute has a priority rank lower than that for the image having the another attribute, the image having the specific attribute is formed into an image, and thereupon, the image having the another attribute is formed into an image in the overlapping area, and

when the image having the specific attribute has a priority rank higher than that for the image having the another attribute, the image having the specific attribute is formed into an image, and the image having another attribute being not formed into an image in the overlapping area.

4. (Original) The image forming device of claim 2, further comprising means for selecting either forming the image having the specific attribute in the overlapping area into an image, and thereupon, forming the image having the another attribute into an image, or forming the image having the specific attribute in the overlapping area into an image, and not forming the image having the another attribute into an image, when the image having the specific attribute has a priority rank lower than that for the image having the another attribute.

5. (Currently Amended) The image forming device of ~~one of claim 2 through claim 4~~ claim 2, wherein, when both of these two images are the image having the specific attribute or the image having the another attribute, the image which has a higher priority rank is formed into an image, and the image which has a lower priority rank is not formed into an image in the overlapping area.

6. (Currently Amended) The image forming device of ~~one of claim 2 through claim 5~~ claim 2, wherein an attribute of the image having the specific attribute is an embossed image.

7. (Original) An image forming method for forming an image into an image on a recording paper, comprising the steps of:

determining an overlapping area where two images are overlapped at least partially,  
determining priority ranks which represent a top or bottom in an overlapped status of these two images in the overlapping area, and  
forming an image which has a lower priority rank into an image, and thereupon,  
forming the image which has a higher priority rank into an image.

8. (Original) The image forming method of claim 7, further comprising the step of determining attributes of these two images in the overlapping area,

wherein, when it is determined that both of these two images are an image having a specific attribute and an image having another attribute,

the image having the specific attribute is formed into an image, and thereupon, the image having the another attribute is formed into an image in the overlapping area when the image having the specific attribute has a priority rank lower than that for the image having the another attribute, and

the image having the specific attribute is formed into an image, and the image having the another attribute is not formed into an image in the overlapping area when the image having the specific attribute has a priority rank higher than that for the image having the another attribute.

9. (Original) The image forming method of claim 8, wherein an attribute of the image having the specific attribute is an embossed image.

10. (New) The image forming device of claim 3, wherein, when both of these two images are the image having the specific attribute or the image having the another attribute, the image which has a higher priority rank is formed into an image, and the image which has a lower priority rank is not formed into an image in the overlapping area.

11. (New) The image forming device of claim 4, wherein, when both of these two images are the image having the specific attribute or the image having the another attribute, the image which has a higher priority rank is formed into an image, and the image which has a lower priority rank is not formed into an image in the overlapping area.

12. (New) The image forming device of claim 3, wherein an attribute of the image having the specific attribute is an embossed image.

13. (New) The image forming device of claim 4, wherein an attribute of the image having the specific attribute is an embossed image.

14. (New) The image forming device of claim 5, wherein an attribute of the image having the specific attribute is an embossed image.